

Bloomfield Citizen.

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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from the general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social—so long as they do not contain any personal attacks.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1904.

Textbooks and Publishers.

Any recommendation made by a large majority of the school principals regarding the conduct of the schools under their charge is entitled to thoughtful consideration by the Newark Board of Education. Outside of the high and normal schools there are forty-two principals in this city. Of these thirty-two, including the head of every grammar school in Newark, have signed a petition to Superintendent Poland and the Textbook Committee of the Board of Education asking that certain books be added to the list of publications from which they are now authorized to purchase books for the use of the schools. According to the judgment of these principals, who assert that they are supported by the others who were not present at the meeting when the petition was prepared, the best interests of the schools require that these textbooks be made available. Certainly the principals should know the needs of the schools. They ought to be better posted by far than any person outside of practical school work as to the books from which they can obtain the best results from the children under their charge. The practically unanimous judgment they have thus expressed must therefore be received as expert opinion and acted upon accordingly.

The identity of the publisher of a textbook should not figure in the decision of the Board of Education on this matter. It has been alleged that the reason for maintaining what has been termed the "closed list" in the past has been found in favoritism for the American Book Company. If this be so, the time for bringing about a change and selecting books on merit entirely should be inaugurated. The books now proposed to be added to the list are of an elementary character, the subjects of which they treat being taught in all the primary and grammar schools. If these books are the best of their class they ought to be used in Newark, no matter who publishes them. The pupils of the public schools ought not to be handicapped by being denied the benefit of the best helps obtainable. No one will gainsay that statement. If there are arguments to be made before the Committee on Textbooks to convince the members that the principals are mistaken in their judgment as to the value of the books recommended, these arguments should be publicly proclaimed, in order that the people who support the schools may have the expert advice that is to be arrayed against that of the heads of the schools here. The matter of the "open" or the "closed" textbook list has in the past been a disturbing element in the Board of Education, and now that the principals have given their judgment, after having been asked for it, the board should take up the problem and settle it fairly.—Newark News.

Aboard Talk About Schools.

Absurd stories are continually set afloat about the expense incurred by the management of the public schools here for certain features of the school work. The statements circulated are so wide of the truth that the presumption is that they are started with malicious intent, and for the purpose of creating a prejudice against the school management. That part of the school work that is most persistently attacked and most maligned is what is known as the cooking class.

If rumors can be relied upon as a basis for calculation, the expense account of the cooking class in the public school can only be exceeded by some of the largest New York city hotels in the quantity and quality of food articles purchased. The fact is the criticism of the alleged expense of the cooking class goes to such an extreme that they are worthless and ridiculous. The facts both to the cost of maintaining the cooking class and for the purchase of working material are easily ascertainable.

The superintendent of schools will gladly furnish any inquirer with the figures. As to the advisability of maintaining that branch of instruction opinions differ. No doubt the superintendent of schools will gladly devote a few moments to the discussion of that phase of the subject

education. Some precaution should be exercised about a too ready acceptance of allegations against the conducting of the schools. Some people who are indulging in such criticisms are talking without knowledge of facts.

Insinuation has also been made that the book trust has a hold upon the schools here. Any person who has misgivings on that subject can go and examine the record of books purchased for public school use. The record shows how many books were purchased, and from what publishing houses they were obtained.

Faith Not Sufficient.

Faith without works is dead as Marley—and Marley, according to Dickens, was as "dead as a door-nail." To have faith is well; but without some hu tie back of it nothing was ever yet accomplished.

There are some people who profess to have much more faith in Madison and its future than can be measured by a mustard seed—but when it comes to working for Madison they are less than half as enterprising as an overworked Indian would be cradling wheat.

But they represent the few. Most of our people, when you begin to talk about what can be done in Madison, immediately groan a deep and heavy groan—as deep as would a Puritan Roundhead when he heard a cavalier swear—and declare that "Madison is dead—no use of attempting to do anything in Madison."

The wonder is that Madison is not "dead" than two door-nails—and buried long ago.

Now, the question is, shall we have a wake or a resurrection? Which do you propose?

In New York, Monday, the editor was introduced to a young lawyer. When he found the editor was from Madison he said: "I know all about Madison. My brother, who lives in Orange, has fallen in love with Madison, and is going there to live. What are the chances of finding a cottage there?"

We said, "Let him come out and see." We thought, "My lord, what can we do with him when he comes?"

This is but one case. There are dozens. Men, who would make most desirable residents, would come here to live if they could find a house to live in. Providing, when they stepped off the train, some resident don't tell them, "Oh, you don't want to come here! Madison is dead."

What usually makes a dead town? Lack of interest in it by its residents. If every resident of Madison would do his part, fifty cottages, to be occupied by fifty good families, might be erected here this summer.—Madison Eagle.

If residents of this town, reading the above, would substitute Bloomfield for Madison, the shoe will be found to fit nicely. Every town has among its population an element of croakers who are continually decrying the town and its government and its people. When the croaking element in a community outnumbers the opposite element, that community is in a sorry condition indeed. The superabundance of croakers is at present an affliction to this town.

The Essex Cross Railway.

Francois M. Eppley of West Orange, President of the Essex Cross Railway Company, was in Irvington Tuesday looking over the route of a proposed electric railroad. He was accompanied by several New York capitalists, representing extensive financial interests, which he stated were back of the project.

In several places it will be necessary to build the line on private property owing to the refusal of some to consent to the tracks being laid in front of their properties.

Mr. Eppley secured options on such pieces of property as will be necessary to use in building the road. He stated that the work of construction would be begun early in June, but as the franchise provides that the line shall be completed by the first of that month the Town Council will probably be asked to grant an extension of time.

The franchise covering the Irvington section of the proposed line was granted January 6, 1903. The road will extend from Bloomfield to Elizabeth.

From present indications the Essex Cross Railway Company's plans apply only to that portion of the proposed street railway south of Main street in East Orange to Elizabeth. The company has secured franchises in Irvington and Elizabeth, and has an application now before the East Orange City Council for a franchise from the Irvington city line to Main street, but does not cross Main street. The probability is that if the application now before the East Orange authorities is granted attention will then be directed toward securing a franchise in this town.

Quite a Difference.

The Newark city officials appear to be in no hurry to ratify the action of the majority of the voters of Vallsburgh in voting for annexation. If Bloomfield had voted in the affirmative there was to be a special meeting of the Newark Common Council the night following the election for the purpose of completing the annexation. Vallsburgh is Democratic and Bloomfield is Republican. Hence the anxiety to get the latter and the indifference towards the former.

Mr. Zabriskie's Funeral.

The funeral of George A. Zabriskie took place from his home in Linden avenue, Glen Ridge, last Saturday afternoon. The services were conducted by Rev. Elliott Wilbur Brown, pastor of the Glen Ridge Congregational Church, of which Mr. Zabriskie had been a member and deacon. There were many beautiful floral tributes, and delegations were present from the Royal Arcanum, the Holland Society, the Knights of Honor, and Essex Hook and Ladder Company No. 1. The pall-bearers were Thomas W. Langstroth, Charles G. Clark, S. Landon Hubbell, A. B. Hubbell, Seymour C. Baker and Frank H. Baker. A memorial service was held in the Congregational Church Wednesday evening.

Parsifal Concert.

In response to numerous requests Wm. C. Carl will give a free Parsifal concert in the First Presbyterian Church, Fifth avenue and Twelfth street, New York, next Tuesday evening, April 26, at 8.15. The bells from the Metropolitan Opera House will be placed in the church and the programme will include the principal scenes from the music-drama. The Rev. Dr. Howard Duffield will give the analytical notes. Soloists: Miss Emma Stewart, soprano; Tor Van Pyk, tenor; Andreas Schneider, baritone; Wesley Weyman, pianist; Max Nickell, the bells.

Mr. Lindabury Not a Candidate.

Richard V. Lindabury will not, under any circumstances, be the Democratic nominee for Governor of New Jersey this year. Whether or not it would be the policy of the party leaders to select Mr. Lindabury as the standard-bearer of the State Democracy in the coming gubernatorial campaign they will not have a chance to decide upon that proposition, unless Mr. Lindabury's mind undergoes a complete change in reference to his own availability as a candidate.

Schubert Opening Festival.

The spring festival concert of the Schubert Vocal Society will be held in the Krueger Auditorium, Belmont avenue, Newark, on Wednesday evening, April 27, when "The Damnation of Faust" will be sung. The dramatic legend will be produced by an enlarged chorus, and orchestra selected from the best metropolitan players. Louis Arthur Russell will conduct the concert, and the soloists engaged are Mme. Shanah Cumming, Herbert Witherspoon, Theodore Van Yax and Henry Goldberg.

Held on Charge of Assault.

Samuel Everts and John Gordon, aged fifteen and sixteen years respectively, were arrested in East Orange yesterday morning by Policemen Heaton and Gamble of that place and turned over to the Glen Ridge authorities on a charge of assault and battery perpetrated by Mary Fritz of Montclair, who is employed at the factory of the Nevins Church Press Company. It is alleged that the young woman was on her way home, and when near the sand pits they attacked her. She screamed and the assailants ran away.

Off for California.

Mrs. Mary Leonard Woodruff, wife of the pastor of Park M. E. Church, started for California this week to represent the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Church at the Missionary Conference in San Francisco, April 26 to 29. She will also attend the General Conference of the M. E. Church in Los Angeles in May. Mrs. Woodruff, who is a well-known public speaker, will address missionary meetings at Chicago and other Western cities en route.

Savings Bank Managers.

The old Board of Managers of the Bloomfield Savings Institution resigned Monday and a new board was chosen as follows: Theodore H. Wa d, Frank S. Benson, John A. Lawrence, John G. Keyler, Howard B. Davis, Peter J. Quinn, Alfred M. Wood, Charles J. Murray, William L. Johnson, James H. Moore and Charles L. S. Ibert.

It is understood that Mr. Ward will be elected president of the institution, and Halsey M. Barrett counsel.

Will Stable at Waverly.

Theodore Maxfield has decided to locate at Waverly, for a month or two at least. He was down there last week to select his stables, but could find no one who had authority to let them. His stable here is entirely full, three or four horses having been consigned within ten days. One of his string may lower the Waverly track record before the season is over. He has a very fast gelding that has been in the stable of Millard Saunders and is owned in Cleveland, O.

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